

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 643**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner**

February 25, 2009

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An act to add Section 18901.11 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to food stamps.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 643, as introduced, Skinner. Food stamps: benefits transfers.

Existing law establishes a statewide program to enable eligible low-income persons to receive food stamps under the federal Food Stamp Program. Existing law requires counties to implement the program, including determining eligibility and distributing food stamps.

This bill would provide, to the extent permitted by federal law, that the food stamp benefits of a recipient who moves from one county to another be transferred from the former county to the new county, without the recipient having to file a new application and in a manner that provides uninterrupted continued benefits to the recipient.

By expanding the duties of county officials that administer the federal Food Stamp Program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18901.11 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 18901.11. To the extent permitted by federal law, a food stamp
- 4 recipient who moves from one county in this state to another county
- 5 in this state shall have his or her benefits transferred from the
- 6 former county to the new county without the recipient having to
- 7 file a new application. The transfer shall occur in a manner that
- 8 provides uninterrupted continued benefits to the recipient under
- 9 the Food Stamp Program.
- 10 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
- 11 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
- 12 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
- 13 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 14 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.